TRADE / Winds

ALLAN KALMUS. of New York, takes note of the new collection of poems by Hugh MacDiarmid (described as the greatest Scottish poet since Burns) by wondering if the huge, 498-page book being issued by Macmillan wasn't inspired by a kilt complex. "I don't suppose," he adds, "that the fact that



many of them are written in free verse has anything to do with the author's being a Scotchman."

IRVING GITLIN. the television producer, has inspired an equally atrocious pun. Gitlin's documentaries (such as the recent NBC-TV White Paper series) have brought him many awards, both when he was with CBS-TV, and now at NBC-TV.

"All these awards," said Fred Freed, one of his associates, "have simply brought a plaque on both his houses."

TONY GIBBS. at Doubleday, reveals another pun, this one offered unconsciously by an aspiring author. In a note accompanying a manuscript, the neophyte writer said: "Please write soon and tell me what you think of my navel. . . ."

WE RECEIVED a publicity release from Pete Lemay of Knopf, with the carefully prined heading "News of Borzoi Books," but beyond that the page was absolutely blank.

"I can't explain it," Pete told us, "except that it might have been news about Robert Nicolson's novel "The Whisperers.' Either that, or the release was written in blank verse."

AND TO CONCLUDE our atrocious pun department for the day, we'll pass along one that came our way from Frank J. Pepe: "I've noticed those psychiatrists who like to think Jung are always prescribing Pepsi-Cola."

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS. has just brought out what might well be the heaviest paperbound edition offered in this soaring market. The edition includes the first three volumes of Arnold J. Toynbee's "A Study of History."

When the whole set of ten paperback volumes is completed, the cost will be approximately \$30, probably a record price for a paperback set, but a smidgen compared with the \$85 cost of the clothbound set.

Meanwhile, paperbacks are booming. A million American buyers a day walk home with new paperbacks, and the number of titles in print has jumped from 6,500 a year and a half ago to 13,900 by the end of 1961.

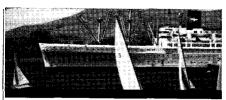
AN INFURIATED Baltimore Post reader wrote the editor to say: "I have just read 'Franny and Zooey,' now a best-seller. It is plain, unintelligible trash. I think anyone who could write such drivel should not be the press secretary for the President."



ONE OF THE BIGGEST paperback publishers, of course, is the U.S. Government Printing Office. Anyone can join its mailing list for the price of a postage stamp, and keep up-to-date on some lively bargains. Recent publications include "Blueprint Reading and Sketching," for a dollar; "What to Do When Your Freezer Stops," for a mere nickel; "How to Prevent and Remove Mildew," for a dime; "Basic Fish Cooking," for a quarter, to name just a few of them.

ONE OF THE MOST pleasant ways of having a cocktail is to join Emlyn Williams for one. This we did recently, right after he had received the news that his "early autobiography" had just been chosen as the Book-of-the-Month Club choice for May. Advance reports have it that the book is one of the most disarming to come along in many a literary moon. The title is "George," which happens to be Mr. Williams's first name.

"It all started," Mr. Williams told us, "when I tried to do a preface for a collection of my plays. Prefaces are something I've always dreaded, but the first thing you know I was beginning to enjoy doing one. What's more strange is that I've never been keen about delving into the past. I plunged ahead anyway, and before I knew it, I had far



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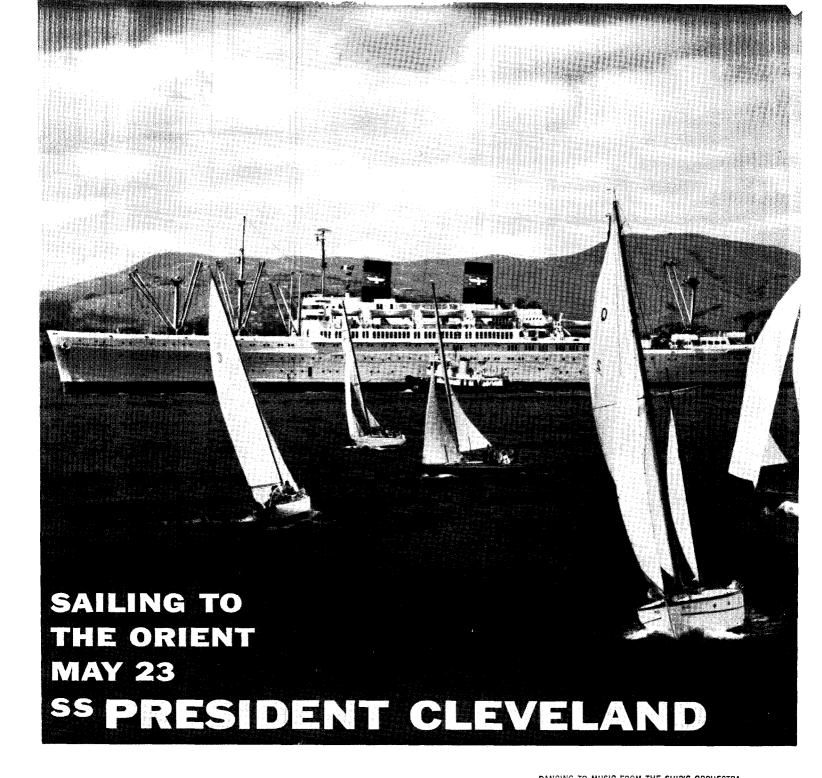
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Additional Spring Sailings

SS President Hoover May 11 SS President Roosevelt . . . June 2 (For tour information . . . see page opposite)



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too many words on paper, and I had to cut about a third of them."

Cutting is an old story to Mr. Williams, who charges himself five cents a word in his plays if he finds them superfluous. All of his plays, which include "The Corn Is Green" and "Night Must Fall," show a sharp, lucid economy of words.

"In revising 'George,'" Mr. Williams went on, "I constantly found I was using a lot of pet phrases that almost jumped off the page and bit me. There's nothing worse than a pet phrase that keeps echoing itself throughout a manuscript. I think it's a form of egotism, an attempt to be smug, in a way. I found I had written 'not unpleasant' many times. I winced at the number of

'oddly enoughs' I had used. Or things like 'a little disconcerting.' They were all symptoms that made it clear I was trying to show off. I even found I was using the word 'gravid,' instead of ripe, or full, which are much cleaner, straightforward words."

"George" was originally scheduled by Random House for November, 1961, then was postponed until February of this year, and now again put off in honor of the Book-of-the-Month choice.

"This is the most pleasant kind of procrastination I can think of," said Mr. Williams.

While he's waiting, he'll spend some time in the Bahamas, and think over his next project, which is unannounced. His plays continue in constant circulation, and he's just received word from his twenty-three-year old son that he's been hired to play the same part in "The Corn Is Green" for a South African production this winter.

"There was only one catch," Mr. Williams said. "The manager of the company mentioned to my son that the reason he couldn't pay higher wages was because the author was charging such a stiff royalty!"

European columnist for American papers for more than a decade and whose latest book is characteristically titled "How Much Is That In Dollars?" (World), recently brought his family to the U.S. for the first time. His eight-year-old son, Joel, is fascinated by, of all things, TV commercials. The other day Joel ran to tell his mother that they were showing how to clean a muddy floor, take stubborn spots out of things, wash a greasy pan, etc., and she'd better come and watch. The reason: French TV has no commercials.

A STORY IS making the rounds these days about some scientists who designed an English-to-Russian translating machine. To test the device, they fed it the sentence "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Back came the translation: "The liquor is good but the food is lousy."



DOWN IN PHILADELPHIA. one of the many court cases involves Grove Press's edition of Henry Miller's "Tropic of Cancer" was taking place, and the name of Thoreau was brought up in the testimony.

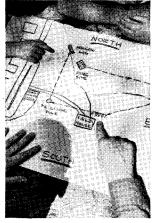
"Pardon me," said the judge from the bench, "but how do you spell that?" —JOHN G. FULLER.

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C. M. Turnbull:
THE FOREST PEOPLE

Kondabate decorated herself more than any other Pygmy girl I have known. She had elaborate patterns cicatrized on her stomach, and her teeth were filed to sharp points. When she smiled or laughed, as she frequently did, she looked just a little dangerous.







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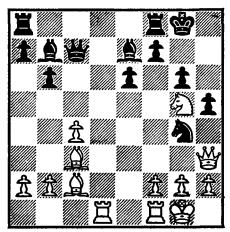
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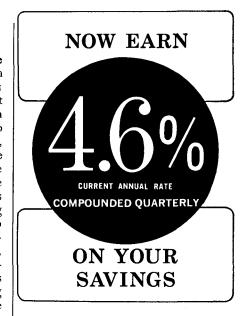
LIBIS for losing a chess game are so common that the wily British master Burn once proclaimed, "I never beat a healthy man." Be that as it may, a new one has been added which for sheer force relegates all the rest to limbo. "I am in love," said Lisa Lane, American women's champion, as she lost two and defaulted the rest of the games in the reserve tournament of the Hastings Christmas Congress. This simple statement suggests something about the approach of the genders to the playing of chess. The male ordinarily relies on icy logic; the female, on the other hand, is inclined to be governed by emotion. Of all lady chess players, only one stands out as having played a man-sized game. She is the late Vera Menchik Stephenson, after whom the mythical Menchik Club was named. This organization boasts a membership of grand masters whom she defeated, among whom are included the giants of chessdom, such as ex-world champion Euwe and Sammy Reshevsky. Vera Menchik Stephenson was killed by a buzz bomb in London during the last war. Below is a dramatic illustration of her style.

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The game has been played reasonably well up to this point even by male standards, with Black making no blatant blunders. But surprisingly, it is over.

21 R-O7! Resigns If 21 . . . QxR 22 QxP forces checkmate. If Queen doesn't capture Rook, Black wins -AL HOROWITZ.



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